

NSC BRIEFING

16 June 1959

SOVIET SUBMARINE FORCE

- I. USSR placing strong and continuing emphasis on further development and construction of modern submarines. Since 1956 at least five, and possibly as many as eight, new submarine construction projects or classes [REDACTED] in Soviet Union.

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- A. Some classes probably in advanced planning stage, while others (at least three) in serial production.
- B. Two of these programs underway in Komsomolsk Shipyard in Soviet Far East.
1. This facility has never been pilot yard, so it is likely construction there also in progress in European USSR.
- C. Few details available on any weapons systems installed in these submarines, but at least one class may be equipped to fire ballistic missiles.
- D. There are strong indications that one of classes building in Soviet Far East is nuclear-powered.
1. This submarine appears to have propellor shaft so large in diameter that it would have to be driven by nuclear plant or one of similar power.
- E. We estimate that between one and three nuclear submarines could have become operational by end of 1958.
- F. One new class of large submarines, building in Leningrad, appears to be conventionally armed and powered, has been

sicknamed "Y" class. Seven units of this class have been built.

- C. By last October USSR had offered Chinese Communists two of these new submarine projects for local construction.

II. Existence of at least five submarine classes in planning or construction stage underscores intention of USSR to employ this weapon as major force in its various roles in any future conflict.

- A. Soviet Union now has the largest submarine fleet world has ever seen. It is modern, and offensively trained. Soviet submarines pose a far more serious threat than did Germany's in the last war.
- B. Soviet submarines are now capable of conducting extended training and intelligence operations in virtually all Ocean areas of world.
- C. Threat of Soviet submarines will become even more formidable as results of new submarine projects. are made available to fleets

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-Soviet Submarine force

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